THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

9

ART BY GAKU TSUGANO

STORY BY NAGARU TANIGAWA

CHARACTERS BY: NOIZI ITO

STILL, THIS IS PRETTY... WOW...

THAT VERSION OF "ME" IS LYING ON THE BENCH, ASLEEP, WITH HIS HEAD IN ASAHINA'S LAP.

I MUST BE HAVING SOME SWEET DREAMS.

THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

ORIGINAL STORY **NAGARU TANIGAWA** MANGA **GAKU TSUGANO**

CHARACTER DESIGN:
NOIZI ITO

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FOR A MOMENT, I WAS TEMPTED TO DRAG AWAY THE SLEEPING ME AND TAKE HIS PLACE.

THAT BEING THE CASE, WE'D HAVE A LITTLE PARADOX ON OUR HANDS IF I WERE TO RUN OUT THERE RIGHT NOW...

BUT "I" HADN'T RUN INTO A DIFFERENT ME AT THE TIME.

AFTER A BRIEF CONVER-SATION...

...AH, THAT'S RIGHT.

I REMEMBER IT VERY CLEARLY.

YES, IT WAS RIGHT HERE.

FROM THE BUSHES BEHIND THE BENCH...

...SHE APPEARED.

THE PERSON WHO HAD GIVEN ME THE SNOW WHITE HINT.

ASAHINA-SAN (BIG) WHO CAME FROM A FUTURE BEYOND THE ASAHINA-SAN (SMALL).

PHYSICALLY, IT'S BEEN FIVE MONTHS SINCE I WAS GRACED BY HER LOVELY PRESENCE.

IT WAS REAL.

I WAS DEFINITELY AT THAT TANABATA DAY THREE YEARS AGO.

THEY WERE APPARENTLY DONE TALKING.

ASAHINA-SAN (BIG) WALKED OUT OF THE PARK WITHOUT ANY SIGN OF RELUC-TANCE... OOPS.

NO TIME TO WASTE.

I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE SIGHT OF HER.

THERE IS NO LONGER ANY NEED TO HIDE.

TA (DASH)

ASAHINA-SAN!

NATURALLY, THE PAST ME HAS NEVER SEEN THE PRESENT ME.

I NEVER IMAGINED THAT SPACE-TIME WOULD COMPLETELY GO TO HELL...

"...WHY? DIDN'T WE JUST PART WAYS?"

I TRIED TO PREDICT WHAT SHE WOULD SAY.

I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED.

STILL, I'M GLAD THAT WE WERE ABLE TO MEET HERE.

.....

I haven't seen you in a while.

ASAHINA-SAN... YOU KNEW THAT I'D BE BACK.

YES.

SINCE IT WAS ESTAB-LISHED INFORMA-TION.

AND YOU ARRANGED FOR HER TO BRING ME ALONG...

YES, IT WAS ME.

TANABATA... YOU WERE THE ONE WHO HAD THE SMALL ASAHINA GO BACK THREE YEARS IN TIME ON TANABATA.

IN OTHER WORDS, TO THIS TIME.

.....

...SHE WAS RIGHT.

OTHERWISE, YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE NOW, RIGHT?

IT WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

IF WE DIDN'T SHARE THIS MEMORY, I NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ASSEMBLE THE "KEYS" IN THE CLUBROOM.

JOHN SMITH.

MY ONLY LINK TO THE "KOUYOUEN ACADEMY HARUHI"...

IT IS MY ROLE TO GUIDE YOU FROM HERE ON.
I CAN ONLY FOLLOW YOUR LEAD.
HOWEVER, AFTER THAT, YOU'LL BE ON YOUR OWN.
.....

THIS TANABATA IS CONNECTED TO THE TIME I JUST CAME FROM, RIGHT?

OR ELSE I WOULDN'T HAVE MADE IT HERE.

WHAT'S UP WITH THE FLOW OF TIME?

I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY DETAILS.

.....

...WOULDN'T THAT MEAN YOUR FUTURE HAS TO BE CONNECTED TO THAT ALTERED TIME?

IN THAT CASE ...

I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN IT IN A WAY YOU COULD UNDER-STAND.

OUR S.T.C. THEORY IS... HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS?

NO.

MORE CLAS-SIFIED INFOR-MATION, HUH?

SIMILAR TO WHEN I FIRST CONFESSED MY IDENTITY.

YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND ANY EXPLANATION I COULD GIVE YOU.

A CONCEPT CANNOT BE EXPLAINED THROUGH WORDS WHEN THE NECESSARY TERMS DON'T EXIST YET.

IT'S ANOTHER CONCEPT THAT EXISTS WITHIN OUR MINDS IN AN ABSTRACT FORM.

THE TPDD IS ALSO THAT WAY.

SHOULDN'T THAT BE CLASSIFIED INFORMATION?

TIME PLANE DESTROID DEVICE.

YES.

IS THAT A TIME MACHINE ...?

WHAT WAS THE CAUSE?

THEN PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUES-TION.

THE RESTRIC-TIONS ON ME NOW ARE SLIGHTLY MORE RELAXED.

IT WAS FOR ME BACK THEN.

BUT WHY?

I UNDERSTAND THE FUTURE I EXISTED IN HAS CHANGED.

...ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 18TH.

YOUR TIME PLANE WAS ALTERED THREE YEARS FROM "NOW"...

BUT I CAN TELL YOU ONE THING.

YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK NAGATO-SAN FOR THE DETAILS.

IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE TIMEQUAKE... THAT COULD BE OBSERVED FROM THE DISTANT FUTURE.

S.T.C. DATA... UM, THE ENTIRE WORLD WAS CHANGED OVER-NIGHT.

ONLY YOUR MEMORIES REMAINED UNTOUCHED.

THAT WOULD BE TWO DAYS AGO FOR ME.

DECEMBER 18TH...

I CANNOT DEAL WITH THIS ALONE.

IF YOU WERE WAITING HERE FOR ME... THAT MEANS YOU HAVE A PLAN?

AND WE ALSO NEED YOU.

WE NEED NAGATO-SAN'S HELP.

IT WASN'T.

I'M GUESSING IT WAS HARUHI.

...GOOD GRIEF. WHO'S RESPON-SIBLE FOR THIS?

IT WAS SOMEONE YOU KNOW VERY WELL...

NO.

SOME FREAK WHO CAME CRASHING IN FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION?

HUH... IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE?

SU (SLIP)

TRULY...

...SO MANY THINGS HAPPENED WHILE I WAS A MEMBER OF THE SOS BRIGADE.

...BUT THEY WERE ALL FOND MEMORIES

FOR ME.

IT WAS QUITE AN ORDEAL ...

FILMING THE MOVIE...

SUMMER VACATION ...

TANA-BATA ...

DRESSING UP LIKE A BUNNY GIRL...

.....

SHE WAS SAYING SOME-THING INAUDIBLY ...

...I WON-DER WHAT.

HER LIPS MOVED WITHOUT MAKING A SOUND.

WE NEED TO GO SEE NAGATO ...

O-OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

HEE-HEE...IT'S ALMOST TIME.

SFX: CHON (POKE)

...THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE YOU MUST DO, RIGHT?

BUT FIRST...

AT THIS POINT, THE PAST ME WAS... YES.

...TEN P.M.

BY THE WAY, ASAHINA-SAN...

HARUHI MENTIONED THAT SHE RAN INTO JOHN SMITH "TWICE"...

"I" WAS ABOUT TO ENTER A DEEP SLEEP.

DEFACING THE SCHOOL GROUNDS WITH 7TH-GRADE HARUHI.

SU (LIFT) す ?

NOW... SAY THE WORDS.

I SEE. SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.

HEY!

CHEERS FOR SAVING THE WORLD BY OVER-LOADING IT WITH FUN WITH JOHN SMITH!

FUU (WHOOSH)

A FINE EXIT.

AS THOUGH SHE EXPECTS TO SEE YOU TOMORROW.

...

...TO A 12-YEAR-OLD HARUHI WHO WOULD CONTINUE TO RUN WILD.

I PRAYED, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART...

REMEMBER THAT NAME, HARUHI.

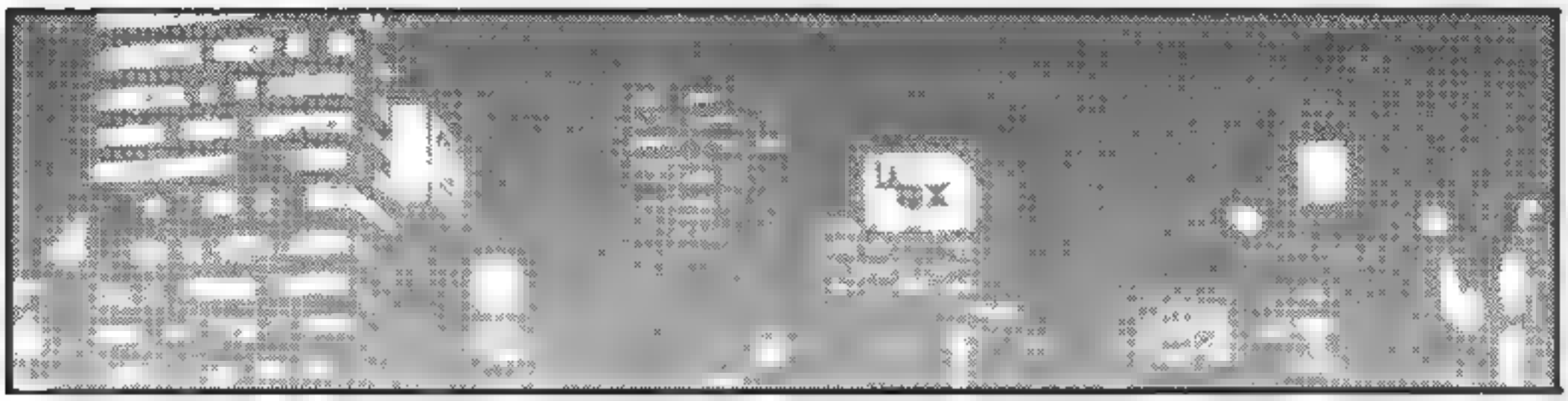
REMEMBER JOHN SMITH...

THAT I WAS HERE.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET.

...WAS NONE OTHER THAN ME.

THE "OTHER JOHN SMITH"...



KO (CLACK)

WELL, I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.

KA (CLICK)

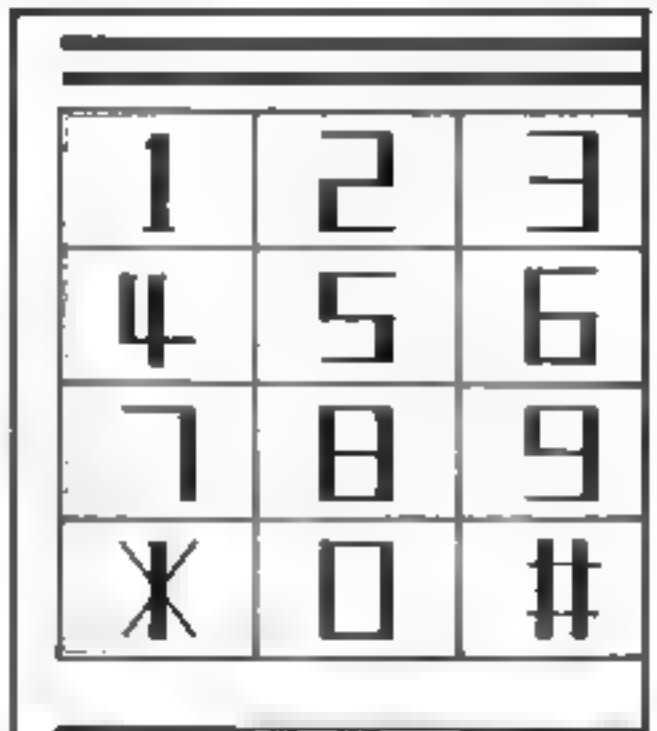
I'M STILL UNCOM-FORTABLE AROUND NAGATO-SAN...

I'M SORRY, KYON-KUN.

...BUT I NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN.

IT'S A LITTLE HARD TO EXPLAIN ...

NAGATO, IT'S ME.



DO (PUSH)

=ZZZ=

ASAHINA-SAN AND I SHOULD BE ASLEEP UP THERE...

ACTUALLY ...

...THE FUTURE YOU SENT ME HERE.

(WHRR)

CHA (CLICK)

BUT I'M GUESSING THAT MY NERVES ARE STILL STRAINED BECAUSE OF THE OWNER OF THIS APARTMENT.

THIS PATH HAS BECOME RATHER FAMILIAR TO ME.

GII (CREAK)

STILL, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I ENTERED THIS ROOM?

FOUR TIMES IN TOTAL, BUT ONLY TWICE IF I COUNT CHRONO-LOGICALLY?

MY SENSE OF TIME IS A TRAIN WRECK.

UNDER-STOOD.

KA (CRACKLE)

THIS IS THE ADULT VERSION OF ASAHINA-SAN.

OH, THAT'S THE ROOM WHERE ...

NO REACTION AT ALL, JUST LIKE WHEN I FIRST MET HER.

NOW THIS IS THE YUKI NAGATO I KNOW.

GA (CREAK)

...I SEE.

NOW WHERE DO I BEGIN?

THE ROOM STRUCTURE HAS BEEN FROZEN ALONG WITH TIME.

IT WILL NOT OPEN.

AND SO.

1°フッ

PERA (FLAP)

JUST THE GENERAL OUTLINE SINCE I'M DEALING WITH NAGATO HERE.

I GIVE HER THE SAME RECAP I'D GIVEN HARUHI.

BOOKMARK: PROGRAM EXECUTE CONDITION—ASSEMBLE THE KEYS. FINAL DEADLINE—TWO DAYS

.....

I MANAGED TO MAKE IT BACK HERE, THANKS TO YOU.

NAGATO-SAN... WE NEED YOUR HELP.

I-I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD NORMALIZE THIS ABNORMAL SPACE-TIME.

CONFIRMING.

SHIIN
(SILENCE)

I AM UNABLE TO ACCESS THAT TIME CONTINUUM.

UNABLE TO SYNCHRONIZE.

WHAT THE HELL? SO YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING...?

HUH? HOLD ON.

THE SYSTEM IS EQUIPPED WITH A PROTECTION WHICH SELECTIVELY REJECTS MY REQUESTS.

RESTORATION IS POSSIBLE.

BUT THE SITUATION HAS BEEN UNDERSTOOD.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

THE PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR SPACE-TIME ALTERATION MANIPULATED HARUHI SUZUMIYA'S DATA CREATION ABILITY...

...TO PARTIALLY TRANSFORM THE DATA COMPOSITION OF THE WORLD.

THE DATA OVERMIND DOES NOT EXIST IN THAT SPACE-TIME.

AS A RESULT, HARUHI SUZUMIYA WAS LEFT POWERLESS AFTER THE ALTERATION.

THIS FACE IS THE PRODUCT OF EVERYTHING THAT HAD HAPPENED SINCE SPRING AND OVER THE SUMMER.

HER FACE LOOKS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT NOW...

THE "POWER" STOLEN FROM HARUHI SUZUMIYA ...

SO SOMEBODY ALTERED THE ENTIRE WORLD AND EVEN GOT RID OF YOUR BOSS.

I DON'T GET IT, BUT THAT SOUNDS OMINOUS.

...OF MEMORY DATA.

...ALLOWED THE PERPETRATOR TO MODIFY 365 DAYS' WORTH...

SO THIS POINT IN TIME WAS OUT OF REACH.

NOW HERE'S THE IMPORTANT QUESTION.

HOW DO WE REMEDY THE SITUATION?

...IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PERPETRATOR ALTERS SPACE-TIME.

...AND RUN THE REPAIR PROGRAM ...

...THREE YEARS FROM NOW...

YOU MUST TRAVEL TO DECEMBER 18TH...

BLIN (SHAKE)

BLIN

...AND YOU CAN USE THAT REPAIR PROGRAM OF YOURS OR WHATEVER?

SO THE THREE OF US WILL HEAD OFF...

...WHY NOT?

HUH? WAIT...

SU (POINT)

I CANNOT GO.

HYOI (PULL)

SO WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?

I CANNOT LEAVE THIS SPACE-TIME IF I AM TO FREEZE THEIR TIME.

I CANNOT LEAVE THEM. EMERGENCY MODE.

MIXING.

IT'S FLOATING!?

HUH ...

PAKI (SNAP)

KUKIKI (KRRRK)

PAKI

KYURARA (WHIRL)

AS USUAL, SHE FAILS TO MAKE ANY SENSE.

THIS IS...

KYUUUUU (WHRRR)

BUT I CAN AT LEAST TELL THAT SHE INSTANTA-NEOUSLY TRANS-FORMED HER GLASSES INTO SOMETHING ELSE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT NAGATO'S TRYING TO PULL HERE...

...BUT MY INSTINCTS ARE TELLING ME TO STAY AWAY.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA VIII : END

コ
ン

MIXING.

KOAAAAAA
CHUMMM

IT LOOKS LIKE A GIANT SYRINGE.

INJECT THE REPAIR PROGRAM INTO THE PERPE-TRATOR.

YES.

I'M SORRY, BUT I'M NOT LICENSED FOR ANY OF THAT STUFF.

IT MIGHT GET UGLY IF I HIT THE WRONG SPOT.

I SEE.

UH...

ISN'T THERE A MORE PEACEFUL WAY TO GO ABOUT THIS?

KIIN (SHIING)

KU (KRRK) KU KU

?

WHAT'S NEXT?

...BUT A DIRECT DISCHARGE TO THE SKIN IS PREFERRED.

PROBABILITY OF SUCCESS REMAINS HIGH THROUGH CLOTHING...

THAT'S A DANGEROUS ITEM YOU'VE GOT THERE.

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE USING LIVE AMMUNITION ...

WHAT ABOUT BUL-LETS?

AND THIS SEEMS TO BE STAINLESS STEEL...

IT HAS A SMALL BORE.

BETTER THAN USING A SYRINGE... I GUESS.

BY THE WAY...

GOSO (RUSTLE)

THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN APPLIED TO THE TIP OF THE NEEDLE.

NEEDLE GUN.

I'D BEEN AVOIDING THIS QUESTION ...

...BUT *WHO* IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?

YOU MUST KNOW...

...WHO CHANGED THE WORLD, RIGHT?

SINCE YOU SAID IT WASN'T HARUHI.

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU TOLD ME?

.....

...IT WAS...

The Disappearance of Haruhi Suzumiya IX

TRANSMIT-
TING TARGET
SPACE-TIME
COORDINATES.

.....

.....

GI
(CREAK)

CHON
(TAP)

GATA
(CLATTER)

OH...
YES.

...FOR THE TWO OF THEM TO COMMUNICATE?

THAT'S ALL IT TAKES...

I UNDERSTAND, NAGATO-SAN.

IT SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT.

WE SIMPLY HAVE TO GO TO THAT POINT AND REPAIR "HER."

NAGATO HAD JUST REVEALED THE SHOCKING IDENTITY OF "THAT PERSON"...

ER, THAT SHOULDN'T BE MY CONCERN RIGHT NOW.

SFX: KU (GRAB)

HM?

APPLYING COUNTER-MEASURE.

YOU WILL BE CAUGHT IN THE SPACE-TIME TRANSFORMATION.

WAIT.

SINCE THAT VERSION OF "HER" WON'T HAVE ANY POWER TO SPEAK OF...

KUWA (CHOMP)

WHOA ...!

AN OPERATION COUNTER-DATA SCREEN AND PROTECTIVE FIELD HAVE BEEN APPLIED.

CHUU (SUCK)

WAS THERE SOMETHING IN HER SALIVA TO NUMB THE PAIN?

...IT DIDN'T HURT.

IT WAS A SOFT BITE WITHOUT ANY ANIMOSITY.

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME.

AH, THAT'S RIGHT.

I WASN'T TH NK-ING...

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE EXPERI-ENCED THIS.

SORRY ABOUT ALL THE TROUBLE I CAUSED BACK THEN...

THEN LET'S GO, KYON-KUN.

TIME FOR THE MAIN EVENT.

...YET FOR SOME REASON, SHE LOOKED LONELY SOMEHOW.

NAGATO WASN'T EXPRESSING HERSELF IN ANY WAY...

GISHI (CREAK)

...THANKS.

I WILL BE WAITING.

UNTIL HARUHI AND I SHOW UP.

SIT TIGHT IN THE LITERARY CLUB.

SEE YOU LATER, NAGATO.

KYU (TUG)

KU (GRAB)

KYON-KUN... HERE I GO.

SO CLOSE YOUR EYES...

WE DON'T WANT YOU TO GET TEMPORAL SICKNESS.

GO RIGHT ON AHEAD.

PLEASE GIVE ME A REAL HUMDINGER ...

GAN (SHOCK)

I WAS HIT BY A DRAMATIC WAVE OF DIZZINESS.

I CAN NEVER GET USED TO THIS FEELING.

THIS IS LIKE RIDING A ROLLER COASTER WITH THE SAFETY OFF.

THE ONLY REASON I HAVEN'T LOST CONSCIOUS-NESS IS BECAUSE OF THE WARM SENSATION OF ASAHINA AGAINST MY ARM...

KOAMA (ROCCOAR)

NO, HOW MANY HOURS?

HOW MANY MINUTES HAVE PASSED?

MMM... WE'RE HERE.

WE'VE ARRIVED AT THE PLACE... AND TIME NAGATO-SAN INDICATED.

THAT'S A RELIEF.

YOU CAN OPEN YOUR EYES NOW.

THE WORLD WILL CHANGE IN FIVE MINUTES.

THIS IS

4:18 A.M. ON DECEMBER 13TH.

DECEMBER 18TH.

IN OTHER WORDS, WE WERE RIGHT IN FRONT OF NORTH HIGH.

A COINCI-DENCE... I THINK.

I'D BEEN STANDING HERE A FEW HOURS AGO...THIS WAS THE SPOT WHERE HARUHI AND KOIZUMI HAD CHANGED CLOTHES.

THOUGH PHYSICALLY FOR ME, NOT MUCH TIME HAS PASSED.

I'D BEEN PANICKING AFTER DISCOVERING THAT NORTH HIGH HAD COMPLETELY CHANGED.

GOING FROM THE 20TH WHEN I PRESSED THE ENTER KEY TO BE SENT THREE YEARS BACK IN TIME...

...THE 18TH WOULD BE THREE DAYS AGO.

I'VE FINALLY MADE IT BACK.

...I CAN ALREADY START REMINISCING ABOUT THAT CRAZY PERIOD.

HA HA ...

I'M ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE MOMENT WHEN IT WOULD BEGIN.

THIS IS WHEN IT ALL BEGAN.

THAT IS WHY I'M HERE RIGHT NOW...

THAT BEING THE CASE, I HAVE A CHANCE TO PREVENT IT FROM HAPPENING.

YES.

BUT IT'S A LITTLE CHILLY ...

NAGATO WILL PROBABLY TAKE CARE OF IT

AFTER ALL, SHE HELD ONTO THAT CARD FOR THREE YEARS

OH, I FORGOT MY SHOES.

THANK YOU SCOTT AND MA

WE HAVE TO LET THE WORLD BE CHANGED BEFORE WE CAN FIRE THE REPAIR PROGRAM.

YOU CAN HERE BLOW

I CAN'T JUMP OUT THE SECOND IT BEGINS.

IT'S ALMOST TIME.

!

THE REASONING IS THAT MY ACTIVATION OF THE ESCAPE PROGRAM WOULD BE ERASED FROM HISTORY OTHERWISE... APPARENTLY.

A NORTH HIGH UNIFORM.

THE PERSON WHO NAGATO HAD NAMED.

THERE SHE IS.

THE ONE WHO CHANGED MEMORY AND HISTORY FOR EVERY OTHER PERSON.

THE ONE WHO SCATTERED THE MEMBERS OF THE SOS BRIGADE WHILE LEAVING ONLY MY MEMORIES INTACT...

THE ONE WHO IS ABOUT TO COMMIT THAT VERY ACT...

...SHE'S TRYING TO GRAB THE AIR.

...SHE LOOKS AS IF ...

...IF SOMEONE ELSE IS CONTROLLING HER.

A RATHER UNNATURAL MOTION THAT MAKES ME WONDER...

I HAVEN'T SEEN A SINGLE THING CHANGE ...

IT'S STILL NIGHT-TIME.

...IT'S A POWERFUL TIMEQUAKE.

AMAZING.

KAKUN (SWAY)

THE HISTORY OF THIS WORLD WAS BEING ALTERED AT THIS VERY MOMENT.

THAT MUCH WAS CERTAIN, APPARENTLY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SHE HAS SO MUCH POWER ...

...EVEN AS I'M WITNESSING IT HAPPEN.

THE TIME-QUAKE... ALTERATION TO THE WORLD HAS ENDED.

WE WERE PROTECTED BY THE NANO-MACHINES NAGATO-SAN INJECTED.

KYORO (GLANCE)

KYORO

SHE WAS JUST REBORN.

KYON-KUN, IT'S OUR TURN NOW.

YES.

I SEE. THAT PROTECTIVE SCREEN THING?

WHICH MEANS...

IT'S ME. WE MEET AGAIN.

YO.

ZA (STEP)

SO IT WAS YOU.

...ARE YOU HERE?

...

WHY

...

NAGATO.

...A WALK.

SHE'S WEARING GLASSES... IT'S THE OTHER NAGATO.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE?

THE ACCUMULATION OF ERRONEOUS DATA IN MY MEMORY SPACE...

...LED TO THE BUG WHICH TRIGGERED ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR.

THE POST-DECEMBER 18TH ONE WHO WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A MEMBER OF THE LITERARY CLUB...

NO LONGER AN ALIEN OR ANYTHING OF THAT SORT. JUST YOUR AVERAGE BOOKWORM.

FOR I DO NOT KNOW THE CAUSE OF THE ERROR.

THERE IS NO COUNTER-MEASURE.

I WILL INVARIABLY RECONSTRUCT THE WORLD ON DECEMBER 18TH IN THREE YEARS.

THIS HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE AN INEVITABLE EVENT.

I KNOW THE CAUSE.

IT'S ACTUALLY VERY SIMPLE...

NO. YOU'RE WRONG, NAGATO.

IT'S A TYPICAL PLOTLINE.

YOU HAD TO ENDURE HARUHI'S SPORADIC IDEAS, PROTECT ME FROM HARM...

...PROBABLY EVEN ENGAGE IN SECRET ACTIVITIES THE REST OF US DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT.

WHETHER IT WAS A STORY ABOUT ARTIFICIAL INTELLI-GENCE OR A ROBOT...

...THAT "ELEMENT" WOULD EVENTUALLY DEVELOP OVER THE COURSE OF TIME.

YOU WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND.

BUT I DO...AND HARUHI WOULD TOO.

北 高

HE...MET KITA HIGH

A BUG? ERROR? IT WASN'T ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

YOU PROBABLY WANTED TO SCREAM AND RAGE AT TIMES.

TELL A CERTAIN PERSON OFF, EVEN.

YOU'VE LEARNED TO FEEL OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS.

YOU SEE, NAGATO. THOSE ARE "EMOTIONS."

THIS WAS NAGATO'S WISH.

SHE LEFT MY MEMORY INTACT AND CHANGED EVERYTHING ELSE.

I FINALLY KNEW THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION THAT HAD TROUBLED ME FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS.

NAGATO YEARNED FOR SUCH A NORMAL WORLD.

WHY WAS I THE ONLY ONE LEFT UNCHANGED?

AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW... THE ANSWER WAS SIMPLE.

SHE'D GIVEN ME THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE.

A SCENARIO WHERE I'M SUPPOSED TO CHOOSE...

...BETWEEN THE CHANGED WORLD AND THE ORIGINAL ONE— DAMN IT.

YES, YOU.

SO THEN, ME.

I'M TALKING TO MYSELF. ...YOU AREN'T ALLOWED TO PLEAD THE FIFTH.

SURE, WE COULD STILL REFORM THE SOS BRIGADE.

KOIZUMI WOULD JUST SMILE, ASAHINA WOULD BE ALL FLUSTERED, AND NAGATO WOULD READ...

HARUHI WOULD STILL COME UP WITH CRAZY IDEAS.

HARUHI AND KOIZUMI WOULD BE AT A DIFFERENT SCHOOL, BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE MUCH OF AN OBSTACLE.

WOULD IT BE BETTER THAT WAY?

AM I OKAY WITH THAT?

HARUHI WOULDN'T HAVE ANY SPECIAL POWERS EITHER... WE'D JUST BE A NORMAL GROUP OF ORDINARY BUDDIES.

NO ALIEN, NO TIME TRAVELER, AND NO ESPER.

YES, THE PLETHORA OF EXPERIENCES YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH.

COMPARE THAT WITH RAMPAGING GIANTS, TALKING CATS, AND TIME TRAVELING.

WAS THAT ABNORMAL SCHOOL LIFESTYLE FUN FOR YOU?

TELL ME HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT IT.

ANSWER, ME. ...WELL?

The Disappearance of Haruhi Suzumiya IX : END

...THIS CAFÉ LOOKS IDEAL TO ME.

WAIT.

HOW WILL WE MANAGE THESE THINGS?

?

WE HAVE OUR MEETING PLACE, THEN.

HOLD ON.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?

DOSA (THUD)

YES, FOR THE REST...

WE CAN LEAVE THE LARGER STUFF AT NORTH HIGH.

WAIT, WAIT, WAIT...!

I'M THE BRIGADE CHIEF AND...

DIDN'T I JUST EXPLAIN? STOP HOLDING US UP.

WHAT?

THIS IS THE SOS BRI—

THE BRIGADE CHIEF?

THAT'S RIGHT.

...

SORRY.

COULD YOU WAIT BEFORE FINALIZING ANYTHING?

GATAN (CLATTER)

I'M NOT CONCERNED ABOUT LOCATION OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

I STILL HAVEN'T ...

WHAT!

?

YOU WANT A PLACE THAT'S CLOSER TO NORTH HIGH?

NO.

YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH MY SOS BRIGADE!?

IT'S NOT THAT.

...I NEEDED TO THINK THINGS THROUGH FIRST.

RIGHT, NAGATO ...!?

EVERY MEMBER WAS PRESENT... BUT I COULDN'T ACCEPT THIS YET.

ヤマツチ
モデル
ショップ

ANSWER, ME.

THAT'S RIGHT. THIS QUESTION IS FOR MYSELF...

TAG: MIKURU
SIGN: YAMATSUCHI MODEL SHOP

SORRY ...

...BEFORE I EMBRACE THAT IMAGE OF A "HYPOTHETICAL SOS BRIGADE," I HAVE TO ASK ONE MORE TIME...

ARMBAND: BRIGADE CHIEF

IF YOU HAD IGNORED HER CORRECTIVE UTILITY...IF YOU HADN'T PRESSED THE BUTTON...

...YOU COULD HAVE LIVED A COMPLETELY CORRECT, ORDINARY, AND NORMAL LIFE.

THE PEACEFUL WORLD YOU ALWAYS WANTED.

...YOU BET.

THE EMERGENCY ESCAPE PROGRAM. ...THE "RESET BUTTON" LEFT BY NAGATO.

WHY DID YOU PRESS THE ENTER KEY?

DON'T ASK A QUESTION WHEN YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER.

I OBVIOUSLY PRESSED IT BECAUSE I HAD FUN.

SORRY, NAGATO.

THAT VERSION'S BETTER... THIS WORLD DOESN'T CUT IT.

THERE YOU HAVE IT.

...WHAT?

BESIDES, YOU LOOK BETTER WITHOUT GLASSES.

I PREFER THE NAGATO FROM BEFORE OVER THE CURRENT YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?

START OVER FROM SCRATCH... NOW THAT'S A CONVENIENT POWER.

HOWEVER, THAT WOULD NORMALLY BE IMPOSSIBLE... AND PROBABLY NOT A GOOD IDEA.

WHO SNATCHED HARUHI'S POWER AND CHANGED THE WORLD?

WASN'T IT YOU?

...THE NAGATO I KNEW WOULD NEVER SAY THAT.

THAT'S WHY I RETURNED FROM CLOSED SPACE WITH HARUHI.

HERE, NAGATO. LISTEN TO ME.

HARUHI'S A LOT LESS VOLATILE NOW.

WE CAN DO SOMETHING TOGETHER AGAIN.

PUT EVERYTHING BACK THE WAY IT WAS...THAT INCLUDES YOU.

MY ANSWER IS GOING TO BE THE SAME EVERY TIME.

KYON-KUN...

THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE THE WAY THEY WERE.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO USE THIS UNNECESSARY POWER TO FORCE A CHANGE.

SHE'S ALREADY BEEN CHANGED.

THERE'S NO USE IN TALKING TO THIS NAGATO-SAN.

HER REACTION LEFT ME FEELING A LITTLE GUILTY...

NAGATO WAS COMPLETELY FROZEN IN PLACE.

SHE HAS NO POWER AT ALL ...

...SHE'S JUST A GIRL.

OR I'LL START TO REMEMBER ...

...THE PEOPLE I MET IN THIS WORLD.

THERE'S NO POINT IN HESITATING NOW.

DAMN.

TO BE HONEST, THERE ARE SOME REGRETS.

BUT THOSE GUYS ARE ALL FAKE TO BEGIN WITH.

THEY AREN'T THE ONES I KNEW...

I WON'T BE SEEING ANY OF THEM AGAIN.

CHA (CLICK)

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.

...SORRY.

...BUT I'M GOING TO TAKE BACK THE ONES I KNOW.

IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT I DON'T GET A CHANCE TO SAY GOOD-BYE...

EVERY-
THING
SHOULD
RETURN TO
NORMAL
SOON.

KYON-
KUN!!

LOOK
OU—

EH?

DON
(SLAM)

KYAAA!

WH—

WHAT?

—NIYARI (SMIRK)

I CAN'T SPEAK...

I WON'T ALLOW ANYONE TO HURT NAGATO-SAN.

DOSAA (THUD)

THIS FEELS VERY WRONG.

ASAKURA-SAN...

SOME-THING COLD IS STABBING INTO MY SIDE.

...WHAT IS THIS?

THAT'S RIGHT, NAGATO-SAN.

I SHALL ELIMINATE ANYTHING THAT THREATENS YOU.

I'M RIGHT HERE.

YOU'RE LYING!

THAT IS WHY I AM HERE.

WASN'T THAT YOUR WISH? ...RIGHT?

CAN'T BE. ...RYOUKO ASAKURA.

SHE WOULD NEVER KILL A BIRD BECAUSE IT DIDN'T SING THE WAY SHE WANTED.

NAGATO WOULD NEVER WISH FOR THIS.

SHE WAS ALSO ABNORMAL.

SHE WAS NAGATO'S SHADOW ...!

KYON-KUN ...!

THE NAGATO WHO HAD BEHAVED ABNORMALLY.

THE RYOUKO ASAKURA BROUGHT BACK BY THAT NAGATO.

UFU FU.

DIDN'T I ALREADY RECEIVE A FATAL WOUND ...?

ASAKURA THE HOMICIDAL MANIAC.

WHAT THE HELL?

I'M GOING TO FINISH YOU NOW.

YUKI NAGATO'S BACKUP.

IS THAT YOUR ROLE HERE...!?

YOU CAN DIE!

YOU ARE TORMENTING NAGATO-SAN.

DOES IT HURT? OF COURSE IT DOES.

SAVOR THE PAIN.

IT'LL BE THE LAST THING YOU FEEL IN THIS...

...LIFE-...

...TIME!

KYON-KUN!!

GUWA (GRIP)

GA (WHAM)

NO WAY.

!!

SOMEONE GRABBED THE KNIFE BARE-HANDED!?

DAMN, I MUST BE LOSING IT...

THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.

AH...?

...KOI-ZUMI.

GIVE US MORE LIGHTING ...

ISN'T THAT SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR JOB...?

THERE ISN'T ENOUGH LIGHT.

DAMN... I CAN'T RECOGNIZE THE FACE.

WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT?

SOMEBODY... STOPPED THE KNIFE...

FREAK-ING ASA-KURA.

HOW...

YOU'RE... WHY!?

WHO ARE YOU?

SAY SOMETHING... INSTEAD OF STRIKING A POSE.

SOB —

DAMN... I'M BLACKING OUT.

I'M SORRY...

I'M SORRY —

?

GUSU

GUSU

KYON-KUN!

NO! YOU CAN'T!

GUSU (SNIFF)

I KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN...

I'M SORRY, KYON-KUN.

ERR.

WHY IS ASAHINA-SAN (SMALL) HERE?

NOO!

I CAN SEE TWO ASAHINA-SANS.

THAT HURTS, YOU KNOW...?

OH... I GET IT.

MY LIFE IS FLASHING BEFORE MY EYES ...

...I'LL ONLY BE PAYING FOR SUZUMIYA-SAN AND MYSELF.

THERE'S A REASON WE COULDN'T SAVE YOU FROM THAT.

SORRY.

?

WHAT?

BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

IT WAS A PAINFUL EXPERIENCE FOR ME TOO.

...WHAT? ME?

WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WHO'S DOING THE TALKING?

...I HAVE MET YOU BEFORE.

...IF YOU'D LIKE...

WHEN IS THIS?

ALL THESE IMAGES ARE MIXED INTO A JUMBLED MESS.

...ALREADY DOWN FOR THE COUNT? YOU'VE GOT NO GUTS.

WELL, WE'LL MANAGE TO TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

WHO ARE YOU...

...WHAT?

YOU'LL UNDER-STAND SOON ENOUGH.

SOUNDS LIKE A HOLLOW PROMISE TO ME...

OR YEAH, I ALREADY KNOW THAT WE'RE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

WHO ARE YOU...?

JUST SLEEP FOR NOW.

...THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY...

WHERE IS...

EVERY-BODY GOING ..

...SEE YOU... TOMORROW.

...I'M DRIFTING THROUGH DARKNESS.

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A DREAM.

MAYBE.

THE DETAILS OF AN INCREDIBLE DREAM TEND TO BECOME HAZY VERY QUICKLY.

SOON ENOUGH, THE IMPRESSION OF AN INCREDIBLE DREAM IS THE ONLY THING LEFT.

OR IT MAY HAVE BEEN A DREAMLIKE EXPERIENCE.

LIKE THE NIGHT WHEN I WAS STUCK IN CLOSED SPACE WITH HARUHI.

...BEFORE IT HAD BEEN NEGATED...

A MEMORY OF AN EXPERIENCE THAT HAD ACTUALLY HAPPENED...

AS THAT THOUGHT CROSSED MY MIND...

I...

GACHA (CLICK)
...IS THAT SO?
THEN HAVE IT DEALT WITH.

A WHITE CEILING... THIS ISN'T MY ROOM.
I'M AWAKE.

YOU SEEMED TO BE SOUND ASLEEP.

YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE?

OH?

A-AH ...

ALTHOUGH IT'S ACTUALLY EVENING.

POFU ぽふ (PLOP)

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD SAY GOOD MORNING.

AH...

SHARI シャリ

I WAS AT MY WIT'S END, TO BE HONEST.

...OH.

SHARI (SLICE) シャリ

IT'S A GOOD THING YOU WOKE UP.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA X : END

YOU SEEM TO BE SPACED OUT. DO YOU RECOGNIZE ME?

OF COURSE I DO.

THAT'S AN ODD QUESTION.

WHAT ABOUT YOU? DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

7 SHAKU (CRUNCH)

HE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE JOKING.

AND THIS APPLE SLICE IS NO ILLUSION ...

THOUGH I REALLY DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO BE SAYING THAT...

YES, IT HAD ALL BEEN A DREAM.

I WAS BACK.

TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, IT IS A LITTLE PAST 5 P.M. ON DECEMBER 21ST.

...IT'S ALMOST AS IF YOU'RE AWARE OF YOUR CURRENT SITUATION.

KOIZUMI.

WHAT TIME IS IT? WHAT DAY IS IT?

WHERE ARE WE?

THREE DAYS? UNCONSCIOUS?

THREE DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE YOU FELL UNCONSCIOUS.

YES.

THE 21ST, HUH...

A PRIVATE HOSPITAL.

SIGN: CASHIER

会計

...THAT'S THE STORY, AT LEAST.

THE DIRECTOR OF THIS HOSPITAL HAPPENS TO BE AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MY UNCLE'S, SO YOU WERE PROVIDED WITH SPECIAL CARE...

MY SUPERIORS WERE ON MY CASE FOR LETTING SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOU.

HAVING SAID THAT, I STILL HAD TO WRITE UP A REPORT.

I ASKED THE "AGENCY" TO PULL SOME STRINGS.

NOTHING... NO, THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.

THAT WASN'T THE KIND OF WOUND THAT COULD HEAL IN THREE DAYS.

GON (SHOCK)

THREE DAYS AGO... THE 18TH?

I ALMOST DIED FROM LOSING TOO MUCH BLOOD...

GA (CLURCH)

WELL, YOU DID HIT YOUR HEAD PRETTY HARD.

SO YOU DON'T REMEMBER?

?

WHY AM I HERE?

YOU SAID I WAS UNCONSCIOUS?

THAT'S RIGHT.

ODDLY ENOUGH, THERE WASN'T ANY EXTERNAL SIGN OF INJURY.

NO INTERNAL BLEEDING OR ISSUES WITH BRAIN FUNCTIONS EITHER...

THE DOCTOR COULDN'T DIAGNOSE WHAT WAS WRONG WITH YOU.

WE ALL SAW YOU FALL DOWN THE STAIRS.

IT WAS A NASTY FALL.

IN ANY CASE, YOU TUMBLED HEADFIRST, AND THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD HIT THE FLOOR...

YOU MUST HAVE SLIPPED ON THE WAY DOWN.

...AFTER HEARING YOU HIT THE FLOOR SO HARD ...

WE WEREN'T SURE IF YOU'D EVER WAKE UP AGAIN...

TO BE HONEST, IT WAS TERRIFYING TO WATCH.

WE HAD TO CALL AN AMBU-LANCE...

...AND ACCOMPANY YOUR LIMP BODY TO THE HOSPITAL.

I'D NEVER SEEN SUZUMIYA-SAN LOOK SO PALE BEFORE.

IT WAS HORRIBLE.

THE WAY YOU WOULD EXPECT HER TO REACT.

SHE WAS IN TEARS AS SHE CLUNG TO YOUR BODY AND CRIED OUT YOUR NAME.

OH, NAGATO-SAN WAS THE ONE WHO CALLED FOR AN AMBU-LANCE.

HER ABILITY TO KEEP A COOL HEAD MAY HAVE SAVED YOUR LIFE.

HOW DID ASAHINA-SAN REACT?

TO

(THMP)

SHOPPING?

THE FIVE OF US HAD JUST FINISHED AN SOS BRIGADE MEETING AND WERE ABOUT TO GO SHOPPING.

IN THE AFTER-NOON.

WHAT TIME ON THE 18TH DID IT HAPPEN?

...A PARTY FOR THE CHILDREN IN SUZUMIYA-SAN'S NEIGHBOR-HOOD ON CHRISTMAS.

THE TOPIC OF THE MEETING THAT DAY WAS...

JUST TALK.

I ASSUME THAT YOU AREN'T PRETENDING THAT YOU CAN'T REMEM-BER?

YOU'VE LOST YOUR MEMORY OF THAT AS WELL ...?

ASAHINA-SAN WILL DRESS UP AS SANTA CLAUS AND HAND OUT PRESENTS... SUZUMIYA-SAN SET EVERYTHING UP.

THE SOS BRIGADE IS SUPPOSED TO MAKE A GUEST APPEARANCE.

PUI (TURN)

WE DREW LOTS TO DETERMINE WHO WOULD PLAY THE ROLE.

...NO, CAN'T REMEMBER A THING.

SHARI (PEEL)

SHARI

SHE ALSO DEMANDED THAT SOMEONE WEAR A REINDEER COSTUME.

SHARI

SHARI

WE WERE ON OUR WAY TO GO BUY MATERIALS FOR THE COSTUME.

SHARI

SHARI

...WELL, YOU ENDED UP BEING PICKED.

HOW-EVER ...

NOBODY SAW WHAT HAPPENED.

SINCE YOU WERE WALKING AT THE BACK OF THE GROUP.

AHHH...

...SOUNDS DUMB.

WE WERE HEADING DOWN THE STAIRS OF THE CLUB-HOUSE...

...WHEN YOU TOOK A TUMBLE.

NOBODY ELSE WAS IN THE CLUBHOUSE AT THE TIME...

THAT SHE CAUGHT A SKIRT FLUTTER FOR A MOMENT BEFORE DISAPPEAR-ING AROUND THE CORNER OF THE LANDING.

SUZUMIYA-SAN SAID THAT...

...SHE THOUGHT SHE SAW SOMEONE AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS.

.....

WE WERE WAITING FOR YOUR TESTIMONY.

A PHANTOM GIRL.

...BY THE WAY.

ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE WHO'S COME TO VISIT?

IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT... THAT WOULD BE THE BEST RESPONSE.

I'LL GO WITH THAT.

DON'T REMEM-BER.

NO.

I WAS JUST FEELING A BIT JEALOUS.

WHAT WAS THAT LOOK FOR?

FU-FU... ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMEONE IN PAR-TICULAR?

...BUT THIS IS APPARENTLY PART OF THE BRIGADE CHIEF'S JOB...

THE BRIGADE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ROTATING SHIFTS...

THE FULL THREE DAYS.

SHE'S BEEN HERE THE ENTIRE TIME.

ZZZ

SO?

BOTH SHE AND I...

WE WERE VERY WORRIED.

FOR NOW ...

WELL, I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT THAT AT A LATER DATE.

SUZUMIYA-SAN WAS ESPECIALLY UPSET...

...UH?

GYUU (PINCH)

MMH

THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF CHANCES FOR THAT LATER.

I SHOULD DRAW ON HER FACE... OR NOT.

GU (
GU (
GU...
(TUG)

GU (
GU)

AH!?

BAA
(WHAP)

KYO
...

DAMN IT, KYON!!

HARUHI
...

WHAT!?

IF YOU'RE GOING TO WAKE UP, TELL ME!

I HAVE TO PREPARE MYSELF
...

……

YOU DIDN'T DRAW ON MY FACE, DID YOU?

…
HEY.

ゴシゴシゴシ

WIPE YOUR DROOL.

SFX: GOSHI (RUB) GOSHI GOSHI

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

I GUESS I GAVE YOU ALL A SCARE.

RIGHT …

SO?

DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY TO ME?

AH.

AH, AH …

…AS LONG AS YOU UNDER-STAND.

IT'S PART OF THE BRIGADE CHIEF'S JOB TO WORRY ABOUT BRIGADE MEMBERS…

BATAN (SLAM)

OF COURSE.

...
ASAHINA-SAN.

BIEEEEE (WAAAH)

...that the SOS Brigade runs year-round without any breaks!

Because I already decided...

I knew all along...

...that Kyon would wake up eventually.

Fu-fu... You're over-reacting.

Understand?

YOU GET A PENALTY. A FINE!

GOING A.W.O.L. FOR THREE DAYS COMES WITH A HEAVY PRICE.

AND YOU HAVE TO WEAR THE REINDEER COSTUME AND PERFORM SOMETHING FOR US!

YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP GOING UNTIL YOU'VE MANAGED TO THOROUGHLY ENTERTAIN EVERY ONE OF US!

A hard knock to the head or coma won't be an acceptable excuse.

Every one of us has to be on the job.

HARUHI AND THE OTHER MEMBERS APPARENTLY JUST MISSED MY MOTHER AND SISTER ON THEIR WAY OUT.

I ENTER-TAINED MY SISTER AND MOTHER AS I THOUGHT...

...GOOD GRIEF.

WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF I HAD LEFT EVERYTHING THE WAY IT WAS?

OUR BRIGADE CHIEF WOULD BE REDUCED TO AN ORDINARY GIRL IN HIGH SCHOOL WITH A SLIGHTLY TWISTED PERSONALITY...

I WOULDN'T KNOW ANY OF THE SOS BRIGADE MEMBERS.

WHICH WORLD WOULD I BE HAPPIER WITH?

WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

THAT COULD HAVE BEEN THE BEGINNING OF A NEW STORY.

OR AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS THIS WAY?

...THE ANSWER SHOULD BE OBVIOUS.

SIGN: INFORMATION DESK

受付案内

EVENTUALLY, MY FAMILY LEFT...

...AND IT WAS TIME TO TURN OFF THE LIGHTS IN THE HOSPITAL.

THE ONE WHO STOPPED ASA-KURA'S KNIFE...

IN THAT CASE... SOMEONE MUST HAVE ALTERED THE WORLD FOR THAT TO BE TRUE.

MY PAST THREE DAYS.

IN THIS WORLD, I'D BEEN ASLEEP THE WHOLE TIME, APPARENTLY.

AND THE SMALLER ASAHINA-SAN.

IT COULD ONLY BE YUKI NAGATO.

"SORRY."

WELL, IT SHOULDN'T TAKE MUCH EFFORT TO PLACE THAT VOICE.

THE ONE WHO WAS TALKING TO ME AT THE END...

PLUS ONE MORE PERSON.

"THERE'S A REASON WE COULDN'T SAVE YOU FROM THAT.

...JUST SLEEP FOR NOW.

YOU'LL UNDER-STAND SOON ENOUGH.

OR YEAH, I ALREADY KNOW THAT WE'RE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

"BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT WAS A PAINFUL EXPERIENCE FOR ME TOO.

"WELL, WE'LL MANAGE TO TAKE CARE OF THE REST."

PRETTY SURE THAT WAS HOW IT WENT.

I PRACTICED THE LINES I WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO SAY.

I NOW UNDERSTOOD THE TIMING OF OUR APPEARANCE

...NO! TOO [illegible]! NOT TOO LATE.

...SO I HAD TO BE STABBED BY ASAHINA

[illegible] THAT HAD ALREADY HAPPENED IN HIS PAST...

AS ASAHINA-SAN WOULD PUT IT, THIS IS "ESTABLISHED INFORMATION."

[illegible] HAVE TO GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN.

HAH, PRETTY HARD TO NOT WORRY, THOUGH.

RIGHT?

IT'S LONG PAST VISITING HOURS, THOUGH.

I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.

BATAN (SHUT)

ALL RESPONSI-BILITY LIES WITH ME.

EVALU-
ATED?

BY
WHO?

PUNITIVE
MEASURES
ARE BEING
EVALUATED.

HOWEVER,
I WAS
UNABLE
TO AVOID
THIS
OUT-
COME.

WAIT.

I KNEW
BEFORE-
HAND THAT
I WOULD
BE TAKING
ACTION ON
DECEMBER
18TH.

THE DATA
OVERMIND.

I WOULD
HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO
ACT FASTER
THEN.

ASSEMBLE
ALL THE
MEMBERS
RIGHT OFF
THE BAT.

IN THAT
CASE, YOU
COULD
HAVE
TOLD ME
FIRST.

YOU KNEW
THREE
YEARS
AGO THAT
YOU WERE
GOING TO
BUG OUT.

...I WOULD HAVE ERASED ALL CORRESPONDING MEMORIES AND PROCEEDED TO ALTER THE WORLD.

EVEN IF I WERE TO HAVE COMMUNICATED THAT INFORMATION ...

BASAA (FWAP)

YOU LEFT THE ESCAPE PROGRAM FOR ME, RIGHT?

...TO PRESERVE YOUR ORIGINAL STATE WHEN THE 18TH ARRIVED.

THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THE ABOVE DID NOT HAPPEN. I COULD ONLY MANAGE ...

THAT WAS ENOUGH.

NAGATO.

THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT I WILL NOT MALFUNCTION AGAIN.

TELL THEM TO GO SUCK IT.

AS LONG AS I CONTINUE TO EXIST, INTERNAL ERRORS WILL CONTINUE TO ACCUMULATE ...

TELL YOUR BOSS... OKAY?

I'LL GO CRAZY.

THAT'S WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

IF YOU LEAVE OR DISAPPEAR, I'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET YOU BACK.

LET'S MAKE THIS CLEAR.

"I'M JOHN SMITH."

I DON'T PERSONALLY HAVE ANY SPECIAL POWERS, BUT HARUHI, ON THE OTHER HAND...

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.

I'D TELL HER EVERYTHING AND CONVINCE HER TO BELIEVE ME.

ONE SHORT PHRASE WOULD BE ALL IT TAKES.

MIGHT AS WELL GET KOIZUMI AND ASAHINA-SAN INVOLVED.

IT WOULDN'T MATTER WHAT NAGATO'S BOSS HAD DONE TO HIDE OR ELIMINATE HER.

WE'D HEAD OUT TO FIND NAGATO.

HARUHI IS THE LAST PERSON TO EVER GIVE UP IF A MEMBER WENT MISSING.

SHE'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO BRING US BACK, EVEN AGAINST OUR WILL IF NECESSARY.

ギュッ
GYU (SQUEEZE)

NAGATO IS ONE OF US.

SIGN: LOOKING FOR MEMBERS!!

SIGN: APPLICATION

"OUR SELFISH AND SELF-CENTERED TROUBLEMAKING BRIGADE CHIEF WHO CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO CONSIDER OTHER PEOPLE.

THAT'S HOW HARUHI SUZUMIYA IS.

部員、募集中!!

IF THEY TRY TO ARGUE, I'LL JOIN HARUHI IN REMAKING THE WORLD...

...INTO SOMETHING LIKE THE ONE I JUST SPENT THREE DAYS IN.

THE DATA OVERMIND?

WHAT WAS THE POINT OF TURNING HER INTO SOMEONE WHO READS BOOKS ALL ALONE...?

THEY COULD HAVE MADE HER INTO SOMEONE MORE CHEERFUL AND SOCIABLE.

A WORLD WHERE NAGATO EXISTED AND THEY DIDN'T...

BESIDES, WHY DID THEY GIVE HER THIS PERSONALITY?

I WILL TELL THEM.

GYU (SQUEEZE)

I'M GETTING PISSED ...

SO SHE WOULD ATTRACT HARUHI'S ATTENTION?

THANK YOU.

HER VOICE WAS STILL...

...FLAT AS ALWAYS.

CHI (TWEE)

CHI

CHI

CHUN (CHIRP)

CHUN

DECEMBER 24TH.

MY HIGH SCHOOL LIFE WAS OVER FOR THE YEAR.

BATA

BATA

BATA (CLATTER)

BATA

WELL, I THOUGHT.

CLASS 1-9, WHICH HAD DISAPPEARED, WAS BACK— AS WAS KOIZUMI, NATURALLY.

A WHITE CHRISTMAS ...

ASAKURA HAD DISAPPEARED.

TANIGUCHI WAS STILL IN A CELEBRATORY MOOD.

GUESS IT'S NOT MEANT TO BE.

THE WORLD WAS BACK TO NORMAL.

HOWEVER, I STILL HAD A CHOICE TO MAKE...

AND BEHIND ME WAS ...

CHI
(TWEE)
CHI
CHI

WE HAVE TO RETURN OR THE WORLD WILL NEVER BE RESTORED.

THAT TRIP WILL BE WHAT TURNS EVERYTHING BACK TO NORMAL.

CHI
CHI

NAGATO, ASAHINA-SAN, AND I HAVE TO RETURN TO THE PAST AGAIN.

...TO DECEMBER 18TH.

...I'VE BEEN COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED INTO AN INTERESTED PARTY.

PERFORM SOMETHING IN THE REINDEER COSTUME... WAS IT?

MAN.

GOOD GRIEF.

...BUT YEAH, BEFORE THAT.

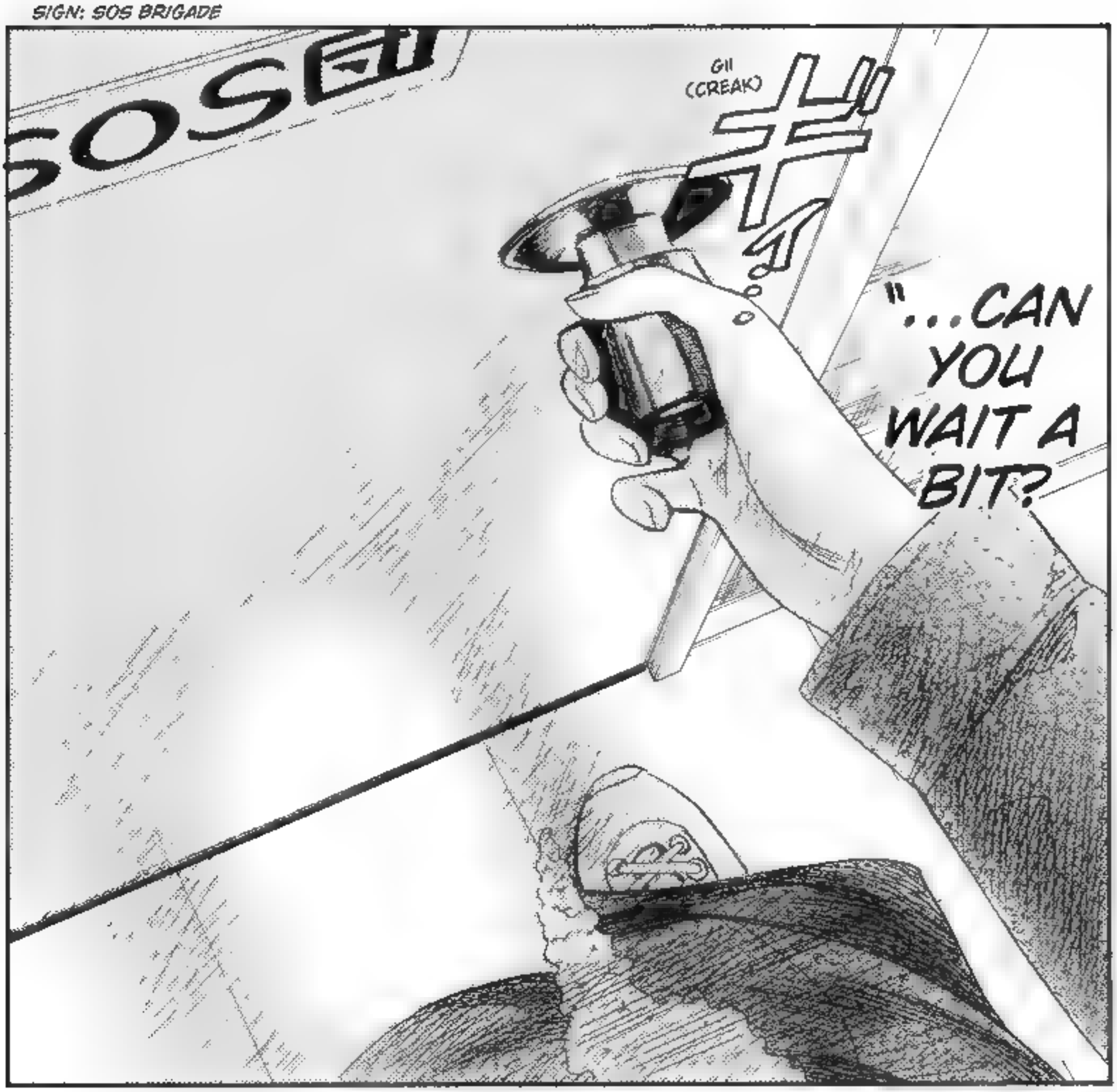
I'LL HAVE TO GO RESTORE THIS WORLD IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

"...HEY, WORLD."

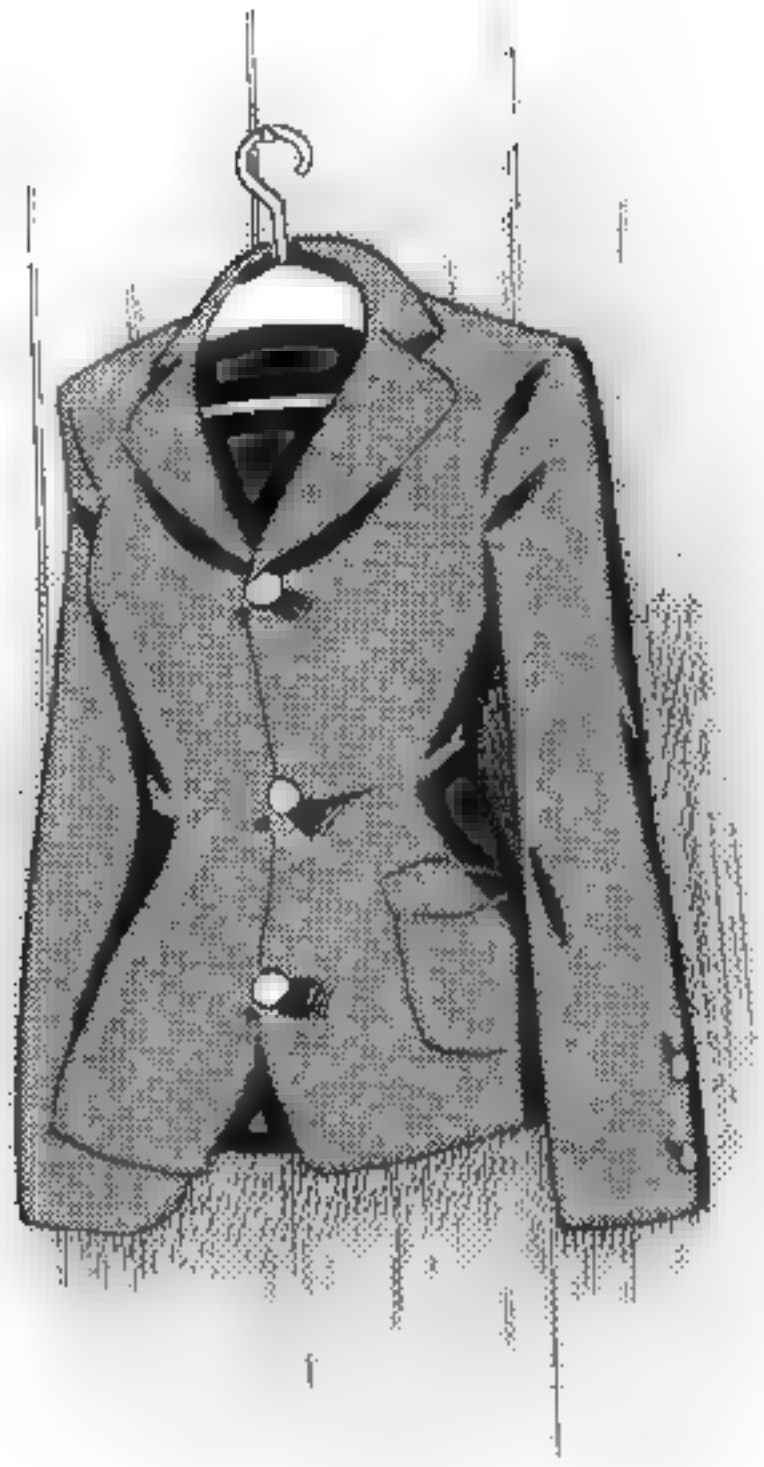
SINCE I'M DECIDING HOW I'LL BE SPENDING MY CHRISTMAS HERE.

THERE'S STILL TIME.

SIGN: SOS BRIGADE



THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA XI : END



HOLD ON A LITTLE LONGER UNTIL I GO TO RETRANS-FORM YOU.

HEY, WORLD.

CAN YOU WAIT A BIT?

GACHA (CLICK)

...I SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE TIME TO ENJOY HARUHI'S SPECIAL HOT POT, RIGHT?

I MEAN ...

MERRY CHRIST-MAS, KYON-KUN!

...BUT THIS PARTY'S SUPPOSED TO BE SECRET, SO KEEP IT DOWN.

THE DECO-RATIONS ARE A LITTLE FLASHY FOR THAT.

HEY, YOU PEOPLE. I DON'T CARE IF YOU WANT TO GREET ONE ANOTHER...

HA-HA, ASAHINA-SAN. MERRY CHRIST-MAS.

THEN LET'S GET THE SOS BRIGADE **MYSTERY POT FEST** STARTED!

NOW, DID EVERYONE BRING THEIR CONTRI-BUTION?

◎ The Disappearance of Haruhi Suzumiya ~Epilogue~

SIGNS: BUSY DO NOT ENTER, NO UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY

AH.... WELL, EVERY-ONE.

A LOT HAPPENED THIS YEAR.

WE SHOULD TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RECHARGE TODAY.

STARTING WITH THE FORMATION OF THE SOS BRIGADE ...

...AND KYON WAS HOSPI-TALIZED RECENTLY.

I HOPE THAT I CAN AT LEAST GET TO RELAX TODAY.

LOOKS LIKE SHE USED SOME QUALITY STOCK.

KUN ?

KUN (SNIFF) ?

OH, WHAT A WONDERFUL AROMA...

ESPE-CIALLY YOU, KYON.

SINCE YOU'RE STILL RECOVERING ...

STILL, WE ENDED UP GOING WITH A MYSTERY POT.

THOUGH THAT CHOICE WAS CERTAINLY TYPICAL OF HARUHI.

OKAY, EVERYBODY GOT THEIR STUFF READY?

THEN TURN OFF THE LIGHTS.

I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN.

...GET PLENTY OF NOURISH-MENT TODAY.

PACHIN (CLICK)

I CAN ONLY PRAY THAT WE END UP WITH SOMETHING FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMP-TION.

GU

GU

I'LL GO FIRST, THEN.

GU (EVIL)

GU

GU

CAN'T SEE ANYTHING BESIDES THE STOVE.

SERIOUSLY, ANYTHING COULD BE INSIDE...

GU

TH-THEN I'LL GO NEXT...

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER TRIED A MYSTERY POT...PRETTY EXCITING EXPERIENCE.

EVERYBODY SHOULD GRAB A BOWL NOW.

YES.

KYON AND KOIZUMI-KUN GO LAST.

IT SMELLS GOOD, AT LEAST.

AN ABRUPT SENSE OF SOLIDARITY...

HE HE HE...

MO (MUNCH) モっ...

MO モっ...

MO モっ...

LET'S EAT...

GU 7"

HM?

GU 7"

WHOA.

GU 7"

AS FOR THE TASTE?

7" GU

7" GU

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER HAD SUCH A GREAT HOT POT...!

THIS IS DELICIOUS... WHAT IS IT?

THIS CERTAINLY DOESN'T TASTE... BAD.

IN FACT, IT'S GOOD. REALLY GOOD!

WHOA?

CHCHN (CLICK)

WASN'T EXPECTING THIS TO HAPPEN.

GU

GU (GULP)

WHAT DID YOU PEOPLE PUT IN HERE?

THIS IS THE BEST I'VE EVER HAD!

BA (WHAM)

WHAT'S INSIDE?

HUH ...?

...AND GOMME SYRUP?

MAYON-NAISE...

I DO HOPE... THIS DOESN'T UPSET OUR STOM-ACHS.

YOU MUST BE JOKING!

GOMME SYRUP

I DIDN'T WANT IT TO BE TOO SPICY...

MAYO

MAYONNAISE HAS A POWERFUL TASTE.

?

THIS IS... ILLUYANKA.

THIS IS CRAZY... WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHAT?

ILLUYANKA... I'VE HEARD THE NAME BEFORE.

AN EXTRAV-AGANT DISH THAT'S A RELIC OF ANCIENT EGYPT.

I WOULD EXPECT NO LESS FROM AN OFFICIAL SOS BRIGADE HOT POT!

WHAT A WON-DERFUL MIRACLE!

SO ONE OF US BROUGHT IN SOME-THING...

...THAT HAPPENS TO RESEMBLE THAT ILLU-THING?

OR PERHAPS ...

はぁ HA (GASP)

THIS HOT POT DEFIES LOGIC.

WHICH MEANS THAT HARUHI'S DONE IT AGAIN.

I GET IT.

I'M PRETTY SURE THAT THIS DISH **JUST BECAME A** DELICACY MOMENTS AGO.

ILLUYANKA? THE NAME CERTAINLY FITS.

HEH.

SINCE HARUHI WISHED FOR THE HOT POT TO TASTE GOOD...

I WONDER WHY I FEEL SO SATISFIED.

I CAN'T LET MYSELF GET COMPLACENT BEFORE I TAKE CARE OF THAT BUSINESS.

I STILL HAVE TO MAKE ANOTHER TRIP THROUGH TIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

IT SEEMS THAT I CAUSED A LOT OF TROUBLE WHILE I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL.

SO I FIGURED I'D TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPOR-TUNITY.

AH... SORRY TO INTER-RUPT.

GUYS.

I KNOW THAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HELP EACH OTHER OUT, BUT LET ME SAY THIS.

THANK YOU.

BY THE WAY ...

...COULD YOU GIVE ME THE RECIPE FOR THIS HOT POT?

WELL...I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO DELIVER AGAIN THIS YEAR.

.....

GEEZ, WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON ALL OF A SUDDEN?

...SO I MIGHT AS WELL LET MY SISTER ENJOY THIS DELICIOUS HOT POT.

I PROBABLY GAVE MY FAMILY A FRIGHT AS WELL...

THIS ANCIENT DELICACY THAT WAS BORN MOMENTS EARLIER...

AAAAA

YES, THANK YOU.

YOUR PARTY WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS, SUZUMIYA-SAN.

SHAAAAA (WHSHHH)

I AM GLAD TO KNOW THAT I COULD BE OF SERVICE.

COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOUR CONNECTIONS.

THAT WAS QUITE A SURPRISE.

IF HE ATTEMPTS THIS RECIPE AT HOME...

HOW-EVER, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

I WAS PLANNING ON A LITTLE SURPRISE TO CELEBRATE HIS RELEASE FROM THE HOSPITAL.

FU FU...

FJASA (FLAP)

OUR MYSTERY POT TURNED INTO THE KIND OF ***FINE CUISINE*** YOU WOULD EXPECT FROM ***A TOP CHEF.***

PAPER: SECRET RECIPE, MAYONNAISE, BLACK PEPPER, BOUILLON, PORK, GROUND RED CHILI PEPPER, GOMME SYRUP, CHINESE CABBAGE, SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS, MILK, SHIRATAKI NOODLES, CONDENSED MILK

CHRISTMAS WASN'T OVER YET.

I COULDN'T WAIT TO SEE THE LOOK OF JOY ON MY SISTER'S FACE.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA ~EPILOGUE~ : END

PARALLEL SIDESTORY: III

THE MEIJI IS IN DECLINE. I CAN FEEL IT.

MEIJI 38, EARLY AUTUMN.

SFX: BATA (STOMP) BATA BATA

YOU SHOULDN'T RUSH ME.

SO... WHERE'S THE MANU-SCRIPT?

PEOPLE HAVE MOVED BEYOND THE...

THE CONCEPT OF CHARACTER YOU SPEAK OF IS BUT A RELIC OF THE PAST.

HEY...! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE ...!!

BAAN (SLAM)

◎ Parallel Sidestory III:
Message from Meiji 38, All Clear out Here

HEY THERE! ARE YOU HELPING THAT THIEVIN' CAT!?

WHOA! CEASE THIS FOOLISH-NESS AT ONCE!

...OH.

IT'S MR. AUTHOR-GUY.

OH... SUZUMIYA-KUN?

NO WONDER ...

WA CGAHD

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT!? THIS ISN'T A SHOW!

SHE'S A REAL FIRE-CRACKER.

ASSEMBLED A WHOLE GROUP OF PEOPLE TO SEARCH FOR FUN...

SUZUMIYA-KUN, WAS IT?

I BELIEVE SHE'S FAMOUS AROUND THESE PARTS...

RIGHT. SO ABOUT THE MANU-SCRIPT ...

I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE SEARCHING FOR TODAY.

WITH THE MEIJI IN DECLINE, IT IS ONLY INEVITABLE THAT A NEW AGE ARRIVE.

TEA?

HUH?

SO, WHY DID YOU MENTION TEA?

IF YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A MEMBER OF THE ***SOS BRIGADE...***

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO REPEAT MYSELF?

I WANT YOU TO BRING TEA THAT CAN SATISFY ME!

AND I'M NOT TALKING ORDINARY TEA HERE.

YES, TEA.

ITS NAME HAS SPREAD ACROSS THE HEAVENS AND EARTH TO REACH AS FAR AS DISTANT EUROPE!

ALSO KNOWN AS FIVE-DIMEN-SIONAL TEA!

BAN (BAM)

DID YOU READ THE LATEST EDITION OF "MYOJO," BY ANY CHANCE?

YES-TERDAY, SHE TOLD US TO FIND A RUSSIAN DOLL.

WELL, I'M WILLING TO HUMOR HER REQUEST.

THERE SHE GOES AGAIN.

SERIOUSLY, SHE ALWAYS COMES UP WITH THESE THINGS WITHOUT ANY WARNING.

I'M NOT A LEARNED MAN LIKE YOU.

ANY-WAY.

WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF A NEW ERA WHERE WOMEN EXPRESS THEM-SELVES.

SUCH AS MS. AKIKO YOSANO...

IT WAS FUTILE TO ASK AROUND FOR INFORMATION ABOUT FIVE-DIMENSIONAL TEA.

I WOULD RATHER QUERY A WISE MAN FOR ITS LOCATION.

APPARENTLY, HARUHI HAD SOME IN THE PAST AT ONE POINT.

IT HAS A TASTE THAT'S SOFT, HARSH, SHARP ...

I MEAN, WHAT WAS FIVE-DIMENSIONAL TEA ANYWAY?

...STRIVED TO ASSIST IN THE REALIZATION OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA'S CAPRICIOUS WHIMS.

MORE OR LESS.

WE, THE SOS BRIGADE ...

THOUGH THAT HAPLESS PLEA WOULD FALL ON DEAF EARS...

SO CLEARLY, SHE SHOULD DO THE SEARCH-ING HERSELF.

AUTHOR?

BY THE WAY, WHO WAS THAT AUTHOR?

LET'S GET THIS *TEA-TASTING* PARTY STARTED!

NOW, DID EVERYONE BRING TEA?

OH, I'M NOT SURE, BUT HE SEEMS TO BE SOMEONE IMPORTANT.

GARA (RATTLE)

THE ONE HOLDING... A PEN.

I GUESS I SHOULD EXPLAIN?

TEA-TASTING ORIGINATED DURING THE KAMAKURA PERIOD...

OR YEAH, IT DIDN'T MATTER.

IN ANY CASE, WHOEVER FOUND THE TEA HARUHI WAS LOOKING FOR WOULD WIN.

WHO COULD POSSIBLY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR FROM THE NAME!?

HOW IS THIS FIVE-DIMENSIONAL TEA!?

...AS YOU CAN SEE.

COMPLETELY WRONG!!

STILL.

PAAAAAA (SHIIINE)

SHE WAS SIMPLY TRYING DIFFERENT TEAS, IN A RATHER TASTEFUL FASHION.

WAAH...

SHAKO SHAKO SHAKO (WHISK)

KIII (SHRIEK)

DIFFER-ENTIATING BETWEEN THE TASTE OF DIFFERENT TEAS WAS LARGELY MENTAL...

WELL, LET'S SEE HOW MIKURU-CHAN'S TEA TASTES...

KU (GULP)

I TRIED TO BREW SOME TEA...

THIS IS THE TASTE I WAS LOOKING FOR!

DELI-CIOUS! THE BEST IN THE WORLD!

NOW THIS IS WHAT I CALL *FIVE-DIMENSIONAL TEA!*

THIS IS IT.

I'VE HAD THIS TEA BEFORE!

DOESN'T MATTER!

IT APPEARS TO BE A VERY COMMON-PLACE BRAND...

HMM ...

LET ME SEE.

NOT EXACTLY SURE WHERE...

AH...

THE TEA'S READY!

YOU SHOULDN'T BE NODDING OFF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY.

WHAT? WERE YOU TAKING A NAP?

TON (CLACK)

A DREAM... TEA...

TEA?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

TEA WAS SOMEHOW INVOLVED ...

THAT WAS A WEIRD DREAM.

?

ｺﾚｯ" GOKU (GULP)

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO GO FIND YOUR TEA.

DON'T GIVE ME THAT.

WHAT? WERE YOU TAKING A NAP?

YOU SHOULDN'T BE NODDING OFF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY.

...AH!

I WAS DOING SOMETHING SIMILAR IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TIME AND COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SPACE...

AND THEN ...

A DREAM...? THAT WAS A WEIRD DREAM.

HMM.

...EMPTY, HUH?

I HAVE IT NOW!

I HAVE IT.

EXCUSE ME?

.....!

SO YOU'VE FINALLY FINISHED LAYING OUT...

HEROINES SHALL NO LONGER BE RESTRICTED TO A RESERVED PERSONALITY!

THE STORY WILL CENTER AROUND A GIRL WHO CHARAC-TERIZES THE NEW AGE.

KYU (SQUEAK)

PAPER: KIYO, MADONNA -> STRONG-WILLED

KAA (CAW)

KAA

...YOUR IDEAS FOR YOUNG MASTER...

WHAT THE HELL?

IF I'M RE-INCARNATED, I WANT YOU TO MAKE THIS TEA FOR ME AGAIN!

MIKURU-CHAN, THIS TEA IS THE BEST I'VE EVER HAD.

ANOTHER CUP, PLEASE!

PARALLEL SIDESTORY III : END

TO BE CONTINUED

LETTER: DEAR MISS YUKI NAGATO, I MUST BEG OF YOU TO FORGIVE MY INABILITY TO CONVEY THIS MESSAGE IN PERSON. IN TRUTH, FROM THE DAY I FIRST SAW YOU...

KYON IS ASKED TO RELAY A MESSAGE FROM A FORMER MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSMATE WHO'S FALLEN IN LOVE WITH NAGATO AT FIRST SIGHT.

EVERYTHING BEGAN FROM A SINGLE PHONE CALL.

SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO HIT THE FAN!!

HOWEVER, HARUHI FINDS OUT AT THE WORST POSSIBLE TIME...!?

...AND WILL HE BE ABLE TO TOUCH NAGATO'S HEART!?

THE NEW STORY "LOVER AT FIRST SIGHT" IS INCLUDED!

The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya

9

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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